Recommendations of Mahajan Committee

*117. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee have not yet been implemented; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Committee set up in August, 1986, in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, under the Chairmanship of Shri B.B. Mahajan, the then Additional Secretary, for identifying posts for abolition under the Department, have been implemented.

Interaction with the LPG consumers by HPCL

*118. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. had embarked on an innovatory approach to interact with LPG consumers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the HPCL of the Eastern Region has started holding contact sessions with LPG consumers to sort out long pending problems;

(c) if so, the details of this approach of the HPCL (Eastern Region) in making ground level contact with LPG consumers;

(d) whether all oil companies propose to initiate similar action to remove the grievances of LPG consumers; and

(e) the details of steps proposed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has embarked upon a system of interacting with LPG consumers along with LPG distributors, consumer organisations and concerned law regulating authorities of respective State

Governments. The Company has conducted such programmes in the Visakha Region of Andhra Pradesh.

So far, three seminars have been conducted at the locations namely Tadepalligudem, Attili and Penugonda of the West Godavari District. These seminars were attended by consumers, HPCL's officers and others.

(d) and (e) Each Oil Marketing Company has its approach to facilitate smooth interaction with consumers. The sales officers of the concerned oil company visit the distributors, complaints received during such visit are attended to on the spot and the grievances are generally redressed instantly.

British Foreign Minister's visit to India

*119. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britain's Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India recently;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with him about controversial Visa Bond introduced by British Government for Indian visitors to Britain; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. Keith Vaz, the British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs visited India from 31 January — 5 February, 2000.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken up the matter with the British Government and also with Mr. Keith Vaz, the British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who visited India from 31 January — 5 February 2000. The British Government have stated that the proposal, is still under consideration. It has not taken a decision about the location for implementing the pilot Financial Bond Project. Indians can continue to apply for British visas with the usual documents, as per the prevailing rules of British visa services.